

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROKG DROPS ANTI-FRASER THEME IN FAVOR OF PUBLICIZING
PRO-ROKG STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF US CONGRESS AND,
THE CAMBODIAN CONNECTION

REF: SEOUL 2844

SUMMARY: ROKG HAS REPLACED ANTI-FRASER CAMPAIGN WITH
MORE POSITIVE, WIDE PRESS PLAY-UP OF STATEMENTS BY U.S.
CONGRESSMEN AND OFFICIALS CALLING FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT
FOR ROKG. PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRIVATE ASSURANCES
GIVEN BY SENATOR MORGAN AND REPRESENTATIVES PASSMAN
AND WILSON DURING EASTER RECESS VISITS TO KOREA ON BASIC
THEME THAT MAJORITY OF AMERICANS AND CONGRESSMEN SUPPORT
ROKG AND REP. FRASER REPRESENTATIVE OF MINORITY VIEWPOINT
CONTRIBUTED TO CHANGE IN STRATEGY AND WERE WIDELY EXPLOITED
BY PRESS. IN RELATED THEME, PRESS ALSO GIVING WIDE COVERAGE
TO STORIES OF COMMUNIST ATROCITIES IN CAMBODIA AS OBJECT
LESSON CONCERNING FUTURE IF NORTH KOREA SHOULD AGAIN TAKE
OVER SOUTH. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON IN APRIL 23
CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM SAID PRESIDENT PARK'S
ANGER OVER REP. FRASER'S REMARKS ABOUT KOREA HAD PASSED
DUE TO THE EFFORT OF SENATOR MORGAN AND CONGRESSMAN WILSON
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TO PUT THE PROBLEM IN PERSPECTIVE. ALSO, ROKG CAMPAIGN OF

CRITICISM AGAINST REP. FRASER HAS BEEN CALLED OFF.

2. PRESS TREATMENT OF US/ROK RELATIONS IN PAST FEW DAYS REFLECTS SHIFT IN ROKG TACTICS FROM ANTI-FRASER CAMPAIGN TO MORE POSITIVE APPROACH OF GIVING WIDE COVERAGE TO STATEMENTS BY U.S. CONGRESSMEN ALONG LINE THAT MAJORITY U.S. PEOPLE AND CONGRESS SUPPORT ROKG AND REP. FRASER REPRESENTS MINORITY VIEWPOINT. STATEMENTS MADE BY SENATOR MORGAN AND REPRESENTATIVES PASSMAN AND WILSON DURING EASTER RECESS VISIT TO KOREA WERE GIVEN FRONT PAGE TREATMENT; (WHEN HEAVY PRESSURE WAS PUT ON SENATOR MORGAN AND REP. PASSMAN TO HOLD FULL SCALE NEWS CONFERENCE ON SUBJECT OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR KOREA THEY FINESSED QUESTION BY HANDING OUT DEPARTURE STATEMENTS). IN HIS STATEMENT MORGAN SAID INTER ALIA: "THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF KOREA CAN REST ASSURED THAT A LARGE MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS FULLY SUPPORT LONG-STANDING UNITED STATES' TIES WITH KOREA...". OUR "DEFENSIVE EFFORTS ARE NOT IN THE ROK INTERESTS ALONE; THEY ARE NO LESS IMPORTANT TO THE OVERALL SECURITY AND FREEDOM OF MY OWN COUNTRY....". "WE ARE ALL VERY MUCH AWARE THAT WHAT WT DO HERE SPILLS OVER INTO THE WORLD BEYOND KOREA'S SHORES, PARTICULARLY INTO THE ARENA OF NORTHEAST ASIA...". IN HIS DEPARTURE PRESS RELEASE CONGRESSMAN PASSMAN ECHOED SIMILAR THEME, THEN ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION SAID, "IN MY OPINION...CRITICISM IS UNFAIR AND UNJUST", AND "ARRESTING VIOLATORS OF A NATION'S LEGALLY ESTABLISHED LAWS AND DISCIPLINES DOES NOT SEEM TO ME TO BE REPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA OR FOR THAT MATTER ELSEWHERE". IN RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S QUESTION AT AIRPORT ABOUT FRASER STATEMENT, REP. PASSMAN REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS MY COLLEAGUE'S STATEMENT AND PREMISES. HOWEVER, I DON'T AGREE WITH HIS CONCLUSIONS.

3. IN ADDITIONAL NEWS COVERAGE, TONGA-ILBO SET EXAMPLE FOR SERIES OF ROK PRESS EDITS, QUOTING LIBERALLY FROM U.S. CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS STATEMENTS AND STRONGLY SUPPORTING THEIR VIEWS. EDITORIAL ALSO NOTED THAT REP. MURPHY WHO IS FRIEND AND SUPPORTER OF KOREA WOULD BE VISITING KOREA APRIL 30 TO SPEAK AT WORLD ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE
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MEETING AND THAT YUCHONGHOE LAWMAKERS HAVE DECIDED TO SEND LETTERS TO U.S. CONGRESSMEN INFORMING THEM OF THE TRUE PICTURE OF THE KOREAN SITUATION.

4. FULL TEXT OF MORGAN AND PASSMAN STATEMENTS ARE BEING AIR POUCHED TOGETHER WITH REPORTS ON THEIR VISITS.

5. TAKING UP SEPARATE BUT RELATED THEME, PRESS HAS ALSO

FRONT PAGED STORIES ON COMMUNIST ATROCITIES IN CAMBODIA
DRAWING PARALLEL BETWEEN THESE ATROCITIES, ATROCITIES
COMMITTED BY NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS IN 1950, AND
ATROCITIES COMMUNISTS WOULD AGAIN CARRY OUT IF SOUTH SHOULD
FALL TO NORTH. FULL TEXT OF JACK ANDERSON'S RECENT
WASHINGTON POST PIECE DESCRIBING CAMBODIA AND
NORTH KOREA AS WORLD'S TWO MOST BRUTAL DICTATORSHIPS WAS
PROMINENTLY REPORTED IN PAPERS. PRO-GOVERNMENT SEOUL
SINMUN UNDER HEADING "NO CIVIL RIGHTS AFTER LOSS
OF COUNTRY" BLAMED LOSS OF CAMBODIA ON THOSE KHMERS
WHO WANTED TO END U.S. ASSISTANCE AND NEGOTIATE WITH
COMMUNISTS AND EDITORIALIZED THAT "FOR US SOUTH KOREANS,
WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IN COMMUNIST CAMBODIA IS NOT A FIRE
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER. WE MUST REFRESH OUR
CONVICTION THAN THERE WILL BE NO FREEDOM OR CIVIL RIGHTS
IF WE LOSE OUR COUNTRY." KOREA HERALD FOLLOWING SAME EDITORIAL
LINE EMPHASIZED NATIONAL SURVIVAL AS FOREMOST PRIORITY AND ENDED
ON NOTE THAT THE "CAMBODIAN TRAGEDY SHOULD SERVE AS A GRAVE,
SOBERING LESSON FOR THOSE, INCLUDING SOME IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL
AND ACADEMIC QUARTERSWHO TEND TO HOLD
CRITICAL VIEWS OF OUR NATIONAL AFFAIRS DEVOTED TO
OUR SECURITY ENDEAVORS."

6. COMMENT: TACTICAL SHIFT TO AFFIRMATION OF U.S. SUPPORT NOT
SURPRISING IN LIGHT OF FACT COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE NATURE

OF ATTACKS ON FRASER POINTED OUT TO ROKG AND ATTACKS NO
LONGER SEEMED WARRANTED. FURTHER, ROKG AND KOREAN PUBLIC
RECEIVED CONGRESSIONAL ASSURANCE THAT US COMMITMENT OT KOREA
REMAINS FIRM. AT SAME TIME CAMBODIAN ATROCITIES ARE STRIKING
REMINDER TO KOREAN PEOPLE OF NORTH KOREAN ATROCITIES
IN 1950 AND FUTURE IN STORE FOR THEM IF COMMUNISTS SHOULD
OCCUPY SOUTH AGAIN.
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